

What matters to you?

As the lowest level of government, your Parish Council has the strongest local connection, but very limited powers and budget. We have to set and manage this budget within clearly defined limits, but on issues outside our remit (for example highways, or planning) much of our work can only be achieved by influence or advocacy. We always strive to do what is best for the community, which may not always suit any one individual. This is why feedback from you is so crucial in enabling us to understand more about the issues which matter to you most, in order to help us determine priorities for the budget for 2024 and beyond.

Last year, we asked every household to complete and return a copy. We received 35 responses, representing about 13% of households. Thank you to everyone who responded. The results have now been collated and are summarised in this document, together with the Parish Council's response. We would welcome any further feedback or input on this document, or for that matter on any other point of concern.

Lastly, as a group of volunteers, your Parish Council could always do with more 'hands on deck'. At the moment we have two vacancies on Council, and we would welcome more volunteers, especially younger people and women, since neither of these groups are currently represented on Council. Please do get in touch with me or any of my fellow councillors, if you think this might be of interest to you.

Tom Butler (LPC chair), tom.butler@leafieldparishcouncil.org

The Village Hall Car Park

Issue Raised	Response from the Parish Council
Provide EV points in the Village Hall car park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council has expressed interest in a scheme for EV points which is subject to evaluation and selection
Repair/resurface the Village Hall car park (tarmac).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council spends about £2,000 a year maintaining the gravel areas by filling potholes and levelling twice a year • In February 2023 the Parish Council replaced the end-of-life concrete area from the road to the start of the car park which cost £26,500 • The eventual aim is to complete all the car park works over the next 10 years to provide the car park that the Village Hall deserves
Make a good path to the Village Hall/improve access to Village Hall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As set out above, Phase 2, will include a walking route all the way from the road to the village hall

The Village Green

Issue Raised	Response from the Parish Council
Improve the Village Greens (verges are worn, posts broken) using contractors, not volunteers. Discourage parking on the verges of the Greens and take a more proactive approach to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council has already installed 20 wooden bollards with reflectors at key points on the Green • An additional 70 bollards are being ordered and will be installed in the next few weeks

protecting the Village Greens from vehicle damage - signage, solid stone bollards.	
Improve the Thames Water pump housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council will liaise with Thames Water over what options are available to do this
Leave some areas of grass and wildflowers to grow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A part of the Village Green near to the school wall is set aside for this purpose already
Have the grass collected when it has been mowed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted, however this would add considerable cost to the activity • There are benefits in leaving the grass, and any grass collected would have to be disposed of as waste
Improving landscaping.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted, but the Parish Council is not aware of where this response is aimed at
Be aware of keeping areas wild and improving conservation practices .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council wholeheartedly supports good conservation practices where this is practical • A conservation survey was carried out by Future Nature WTC and the results are expected shortly
Maintaining and improving grass cutting and trees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council has contracted to have both of these items actioned and has budgeted for this in 2024
Pathway for school children on the Village Green.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted, but no request has been made from the School or in the feedback as to where this should be
Noticeboard where anyone can put up notices about services/goods for sale etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council is investigating putting up a new noticeboard next to the community telephone box, which is already available for this purpose

<p>Another Parish Council noticeboard on the Village Green</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parish Council will task the Village Green Working Group with examining the options for this and reporting back with recommended actions
<p>Keep cutting the grass in the churchyard, playing field, Village Green etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parish Council has contracted to have this work done and budgeted for this in 2024
<p>Stop cutting down trees without informing the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parish Council will ensure that, unless emergency work is required, it notifies residents via its email and also on the website of any proposed tree cutting
<p>Plant some landmark trees around the Village Green (e.g. oak).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Village Green lies in a conservation area and consent would be required for this ● The Parish Council would be responsible for maintaining and cutting such trees and for any associated costs
<p>Reduce mowing frequency - don't mow grass until the end of May and encourage a wider variety of native flowers and plants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parish Council reviews the mowing schedule is annually and this will be considered as part of that
<p>Improve the area near the telephone box and move the green chair from under the wire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Village Green Working Group will consider this as part of future enhancements for the Village Green
<p>Maintain/improve the Christmas tree.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parish Council does not own nor maintain the Christmas tree which is provided and looked after by volunteers within the community

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It would like to express its sincere gratitude to those volunteers who, once again, provided the village with a centrepiece for Christmas ● It would be happy to put people in touch with the organisers if you would like to help with fundraising
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Playground and Sports Facilities

Issue Raised	Response from the Parish Council
Stop focussing so much on football and listen to residents who have lived here a long time, the field is meant for village use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parish Council would actively encourage other sports using the Playing Field ● It would like to express its gratitude for all of the hard work put into making the football team a success ● It would welcome suggestions from parishioners as to the other sports they would like to encourage
Remind residents to pick up after their dog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parish Council recently mounted a campaign #Leafield: Leave No Trace! to discourage dog fouling ● 'No Dog Fouling' signs have been installed at both the Village Hall and Playground
Improve the playground and skatepark.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parish Council has identified that the multiplay with the large yellow slide is reaching the end of its life to the extent that the next major breakage will require its removal ● As such it has launched a project to replace this piece of equipment and add an additional piece of equipment to update the playground ● In 2024 we will be consulting residents on what play equipment people would like to see - £6,000 has been

	<p>set aside for this with another £24,000 needing to be raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council is looking for people to join a working party to support this project so please do get in touch • Year on year it continues to repair and replace equipment either due to wear and tear or vandalism • £6,000 is allocated for repairs and maintenance and your help in keeping an eye out for people misusing or damaging equipment would be greatly appreciated
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Improve the Parish Council’s Communication and Action

Issue Raised	Response from the Parish Council
More effort to inform and include the village in council activities and actions, and proposed activities and actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council sets out its activities and actions both on its website and email • It encourages all Parishioners to sign up for the email
Hold Council meetings earlier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council has agreed to meet at 7.00 pm from February onwards • Suggestions about how to make the meetings more accessible would be welcomed • Many parishioners like to speak on more than one topic - with prior notice these can be dealt at the start of the meeting or a specific time allocated to discuss the issue when the resident is present • A long meeting can be draining and the Council is open to being flexible to encourage greater participation

<p>Increased presence and profile of councillors in the village.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All of the councillors live in the village ● Parishioners are welcome to contact councillors directly but official correspondence should go through the clerk
<p>Explain councillor duties.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parish Council will set these out on the website within the next few months
<p>Recruit more councillors to get a full Council - to enable additional tasks, spread workload, be quorate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parish Council has been actively seeking more councillors and continues to do so ● Please do get in touch and join in!
<p>More leadership and engagement from the Parish Council to organise volunteer groups to regularly meet to work and improve areas in the village.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parish Council welcomes volunteer groups and will willingly engage with and support them where possible
<p>Turning off the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Noted - the Parish Council meets every month, and are small in number ● It encourages attendance at meetings and welcomes contact and input from Parishioners ● The councillors are all volunteers giving their time freely to support the community ● It welcomes new members who would likewise wish to contribute
<p>Pontificating and making it hard work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parish Council is a public body and, as such, must follow detailed and specific rules

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It can sometimes be hard work - especially for the councillors themselves who give their time voluntarily
Send out a survey to residents every one or two years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parish Council agrees to undertake a survey every two years ● In addition, it will look into whether seeking feedback on specific issues can be done via voting on the website and/or email
Keep people informed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parish Council will review its website to make it is clear and communicative as possible ● It will also review the email system and usage ● A WhatsApp group is also under discussion

Traffic Through the Village

Issue Raised	Response from the Parish Council
Minimise event related traffic, ensure prompt removal of signage and seek compensation where damage occurs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is outside the Parish Council's powers to control or ban traffic through the village ● It is acutely aware of the strength of feeling this has generated amongst Parishioners ● It has reached out to those responsible for the major local events in order set out these concerns and will continue to make representations to them
Traffic speed limits and speeding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is outside the Parish Council's powers to impose speed limits nor to prevent speeding ● A 20 mph limit has now been brought in by Oxfordshire County Council ● Concerns over traffic incidents should be raised with Thames Valley Police HERE

Install speed bumps and/or chicanes along Lower End and The Greens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is outside the Parish Council's powers to make changes to the roads ● It will pass these concerns to Oxfordshire County Council
Stop dangerous parking and prevent traffic from parking around the school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is outside the Parish Council's powers to enforce parking restrictions ● It will pass these concerns to Oxfordshire County Council
Stop the parking on pavement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The pavements are not owned by the Parish Council and it has no authority to prevent this ● Incidents of vehicles causing an obstruction should be reported to Thames Valley Police on their non-emergency number 101
Place the speed indication device on Lower End near the Church.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parish Council intends to relocate the device and has identified sites across the village

Other

Issue Raised	Response from the Parish Council
General maintenance around the village (hedgerows, pavements etc.).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is outside the Parish Council's powers to maintain hedgerows and pavements ● The Parish Council will pass these concerns to Oxfordshire County Council
Reinstate the footpath and keep the grass cut, so it can	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is outside the Parish Council's powers to reinstate the footpath

walked on from Witney Lane to Greenwich Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council will pass these concerns to Oxfordshire County Council
Remind people with hedges on the side of the roads and footpaths to cut them back.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is outside the Parish Council's powers to enforce such cutting back • However the Parish Council will clearly communicate the need to have this done
Do more with the village shop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leafield is extremely lucky to have a shop and post office serving the community • However, the shop is not owned or managed by the Parish Council
Leafield What's On	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leafield What's On is a hugely valuable community resource and the volunteers who run it do a magnificent job • However, Leafield What's On is not a Parish Council resource and questions and/or comments should be addressed to leafieldwhatson@gmail.com
Install cycle parking hoops near the shop and/or pub.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council will consider the options for this
Install more bins.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is outside the Parish Council's powers to install and upkeep of refuse/dog waste bins • Suggestions as to where Parishioners think more bins should be sited made to to West Oxfordshire District Council
More community events (e.g. popup cafés, dinner vendor vans to stop at Village Hall).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council would support such events and welcomes any ideas and suggestions for them

Encourage the Church to get the bells ringing and the clock working.

- The Parish Council will pass this feedback to the Church

Please contact the Council directly at clerk@leafieldparishcouncil.org if you would like to have specific feedback on a particular issue or concern.

All your comments will be treated in line with the Council's Privacy Statement which you can read at: www.leafieldparishcouncil.org/privacy-statement.

The Council meets each month in the Village Hall - all members of the public are entitled to attend and are warmly welcomed to do so by the Council.

For more information about what your Council does please go to www.leafieldparishcouncil.org